What is claimed is:

1 1.   A computer diagnostic system, comprising:

2   a computer with a communication port;

3   an I/O system that enables communication via the communication port

4 during power up self test (POST) of the computer; and

5   a handheld device with a communication port configured to

6 communicate with the computer via the computer communication port, the

7 handheld device interfacing with the computer during POST.

1 2.   The computer diagnostic system of claim 1, the I/O system comprising:

2   a system ROM including I/O code to enable communications with the

3 handheld device when executed; and

4   a processor that executes the I/O code during POST upon power up of

5 the computer.

1 3.   The computer diagnostic system of claim 2, the I/O code enabling the

2 handheld device to emulate at least one I/O device.

1 4.   The computer diagnostic system of claim 3, the at least one I/O device

2 including any one or more of a keyboard, a mouse, a disk drive and a monitor.

1 5.   The computer diagnostic system of claim 1, further comprising:

2   the communication port of the computer comprising a serial port;

3   the handheld device communication port comprising a serial port; and

4   a serial cable coupled between the serial ports of the handheld device and

5 the computer.

1   6.   The computer diagnostic system of claim 1, further comprising:

2   the computer communication port comprising an infrared transceiver;

3   the handheld communication port comprising an infrared transceiver;

4   an I/O bus;

5   a microcontroller coupled to the I/O bus and the computer infrared

6 transceiver; and

7   a memory coupled to the microcontroller.

1   7.   The computer diagnostic system of claim 6, further comprising:

2   the microcontroller, the computer infrared transceiver and the memory

3 receiving auxiliary power that provides power when the computer is powered

4 down; and

5   the handheld device retrieving information from the memory while the

6 computer is powered down.

1   8.   A system comprising:

2   a storage to store code for performing power up initialization of the

3 system;

4   an interface to communicate with a handheld computing device; and

5   a processor, the code executable on the processor to communicate with

6 the handheld computing device through the interface during power up

7 initialization of the system.

1   9.   The system of claim 8, wherein the code is executable by the processor

2 to enable the system to send commands to the handheld computing device and to

3 receive commands from the handheld computing device through the interface

4 during power up initialization of the system.

1   10.   The system of claim 9, wherein the code is executable by the processor
2   to send commands to the handheld computing device to perform at least one of
3   storing data and displaying information on the handheld computing device
4   during power up initialization of the system.

1   11.   The system of claim 8, further comprising a disk drive and a video
2   device, wherein the code is executable by the processor to initialize operations of
3   the disk drive and the video drive.

1   12.   The system of claim 8, wherein the code is executable by the processor
2   to receive commands from the handheld computing device during power up
3   initialization of the system.

1   13.   The system of claim 8, wherein the code is executable by the processor
2   to enable performance of at least one of the following functions by the handheld
3   computing device during power up initialization of the system: keyboard
4   functions, mouse functions, video functions, and disk drive functions.

1   14.   The system of claim 13, wherein the code is executable by the processor
2   to output data through the interface to the handheld computing device for display
3   by the handheld computing device during power up initialization of the system.

1   15.   The system of claim 8, wherein the code is executable by the processor
2   to enable the handheld computing device to emulate input/output functions of
3   the system during power up initialization of the system.

1   16.   The system of claim 8, wherein the code is executable by the processor
2   to receive diagnostic commands through the interface from the handheld

3   computing device to perform diagnostics of the system during power up

4   initialization of the system.

1   17.   The system of claim 8, wherein the code comprises BIOS code, and

2   wherein the code is executable to enable the handheld computing device to

3   update the BIOS code during power up initialization of the system.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein the storage comprises system memory,

2   the system further comprising non-volatile memory to store the BIOS code, the

3   BIOS code to be loaded from the non-volatile memory to system memory for

4   execution by the processor.

1   19.   The system of claim 18, wherein the BIOS code in the non-volatile

2   memory is updated by the handheld computing device.

1   20.   A handheld device comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   an interface to communicate with a computer having code to perform

4   power up initialization of the computer,

5   the processor to interact with the code in the computer to perform tasks

6   in the computer during power up initialization of the computer.

1   21.   The handheld device of claim 20, the processor to emulate input/output

2   functions of the computer during power up initialization of the computer.

1   22.   The handheld device of claim 20, the processor to emulate at least one of

2   the following functions during power up initialization of the computer: mouse

3   functions, keyboard functions, storage functions, and display functions.

1 23.   A method executable in a system, comprising:

2   storing code to perform power up initialization of the system; and

3   executing the code to communicate with a handheld computing device

4 through an interface of the system during power up initialization of the system.

1 24.   The method of claim 23, further comprising receiving commands from

2 the handheld computing device during power up initialization of the system.

1 25.   The method of claim 23, further comprising enabling performance of at

2 least one of the following functions by the handheld computing device during

3 power up initialization of the system: keyboard functions, mouse functions,

4 video functions, and disk drive functions.

1 26.   The method of claim 23, further comprising enabling the handheld

2 computing device to emulate input/output functions of the system during power

3 up initialization of the system.

1 27.   The method of claim 23, further comprising receiving diagnostic

2 commands through the interface from the handheld computing device to perform

3 diagnostics of the system during power up initialization of the system.

1 28.   The method of clam 23, further comprising updating the code under

2 command of the handheld computing device.

1 29.   The method of claim 28, wherein updating the code under command of

2 the handheld computing device comprises updating BIOS code under command

3 of the handheld computing device.

1   30.   The method of claim 23, further comprising sending information to the

2   handheld computing device through the interface for display by the handheld

3   computing device during power up initialization of the system.